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OPINION

It shouldn't take a shooting to take anti-Asian racism seriously

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Their names are Soon Chung Park (박순정), Hyun Jung Grant ([김] 현정), Suncha Kim (김순자), Yong Ae Yue (유용애), Xiaojie Tan (谭小洁), Daoyou Feng (冯道友), Delaina Ashley Yaun and Paul Andre Michels.

On March 16, these eight lives were taken in a series of shootings in Atlanta. Six of the eight victims were of Asian descent and seven of them were women.

In almost all media coverage of the incident, parallels were drawn between the hate crime and the mounting anti-Asian sentiment during the pandemic stoked by former President Trump's xenophobic rhetoric.

But such a lens cuts the story short: America's painful history of discrimination against individuals of Asian-descent has been centuries-long — it did not start with the Covid-19 pandemic and certainly won't end with it.

Just as it is not a new phenomenon, this display of racism and hate against Asian-Americans is not isolated, either. We acknowledge the personal pain and grief this national event has brought up for many individuals of Asian descent — both in our Middlebury community and beyond — who are all too familiar with illustrations of discrimination and targeted exclusion. This one example is only a small part of a much larger trend of ongoing violence and discrimination.

The recent attack also underlines the intersectional component of this racially motivated crime. Women of Asian descent have historically been the target of harmful stereotypes — much of which is rooted in American imperialism. American soldiers and mission workers overseas regarded the Asian women they interacted with as subservient and exotic, stereotypes that endure in popular media today. The depiction of Asian women as both submissive and promiscuous engender the sort of violence that occurred last Tuesday.

Harmful stereotypes and microaggressions are not as separate from the horrific events in Atlanta as some may think. It should not take the death of eight victims to make people listen to what Asians and Asian-Americans have been saying for years: this violence is nothing new.

Day-to-day incidents of discrimination against Asian students often materialize again and again without being called out, and Middlebury is no exception. They can come in the form of mixing up Asian students in classes or social settings, neglecting to refer to students at all, or failing to correctly pronounce names such as Yuan, Yue or Feng — or any other name as common as Smith, Johnson or William.

So, what can you do for your Asian and Asian-American peers? Start with learning how to pronounce Asian names, including those of the recent victims. Have some courage to speak up for a friend (or stranger) when you hear or see something problematic. Make a financial contribution to the communities that are hurting if you are able to.

Even more importantly, learn how to call out your own mistakes and correct yourself. Interrogate your own thoughts and do research on your own time to position yourself to be a strong ally to your friends and peers. Professors and student lead-

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By LUCY TOWNEND
Senior Local Editor

All adult Vermonters will be able to sign up for a Covid-19 vaccine appointment within the next month, according to an announcement released by Gov. Scott today . College students, part of the final age group of eligible adults, will be able to sign starting on April 19.

According to Scott, 30% of Vermonters have already been fully vaccinated. Currently, people over the age of 65 or those over age of 16 with certain preexisting conditions are eligible, with eligibility expanding to those 60 and over on March 25.

"Everyone in the final age band could be finished in June, which is why I've used the 4th of July as a marker for when things will feel somewhat normal again," Scott said in a tweet on Friday. This news comes as President Biden recently announced that all Americans will be eligible for a vaccine starting May 1.

Students can use their college address to sign up for a vaccine, according to the Vermont Department of Health.

MiddCourses, currently under maintenance, to return next week

By RACHEL LU
Staff Writer

Students who rely heavily on MiddCourses — the site that allows students to anonymously review their professors and classes — may have feared the worst when their attempts to reach the platform brought them to a page stating only that the domain was registered at NameCheap.com. The site became a mainstay for course registration when it was first developed in 2014, allowing students to see student-sourced information about individual classes and professors, including weekly time spent preparing for class, lecture quality and grading expectations.

Though MiddCourses is currently out of order, the Student Government Association Innovations and Technology Committee is working to fix the outdated features that led to the site's shutdown. Committee members estimate that MiddCourses will be up and running again in about a week. The committee has also planned some new upgrades for the future.

MiddCourses is run through the cloud hosting service Heroku, which requires a working stack of code that makes up all aspects of the website, according to Innovations and Technology Committee Director Lizeth Lucero '21. In order to continue running, MiddCourses' stack needed to be regularly updated, but it had not been touched since the creators graduated. The SGA Technology and Innovation Committee is currently upgrading the codebase and checking on any other dependencies to make sure the website can run smoothly in the future.

While the site is under maintenance, SGA is also planning to make other upgrades, including adding new professors and courses to the website.

SGA also hopes to incorporate textbook reviews on MiddCourses. Lucero hopes this will help students know in advance what textbooks are required for a course, how much they cost and whether they might be able to get them for free.

The site was originally conceived as a computer science project by then-SGA Director of Technology Dana Silver '15 and Teddy Knox '15. The SGA Innovation and Technology Committee took over the site as part of the Student Project Pipeline (SPP) initiative in spring 2014.

The SPP allows students to submit their projects to the SGA to be managed and upgraded even after the student has graduated. SGA members can also acquire projects by

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ARTS & CULTURE

Hippo Campus concert ends Winter Carnival on a high note

By CHARLIE KEOHANE
Staff Writer

While live concerts may seem like a relic of the past, indie-pop band Hippo Campus made an appearance at the college on March 20 in a virtual concert that served as the closing act of this year's Winter Carnival. Students tuned in from the comfort of their rooms and in-person viewings set up in the parking lot behind Proctor, the patio of the Arts Center and the Ross Basketball Courts.

Formed in 2013 in Minnesota, Hippo Campus has established a fresh, lively sound that is uniquely their own, performing at major venues such as South by Southwest and Lollapalooza.

The band broadcasted in from their studio, where audiences were greeted by each of its five members rocking out on their instruments. The show kicked off with some of their bigger hits like the bubbly "Bambi" and the summery "Way it Goes," sometimes slowing down for creative instrumentals.

I was pleasantly surprised to hear some of my favorite songs, including the cheery "Tuesday," played live. Their performance of the slow and sweet "warm glow" transported listeners to a mountainside morning with "warm glow morning soaked in pastel tea." They closed the night with a peppy encore of their popular song "Buttercup," leaving viewers energized as the night came to an end .

Even online, Hippo Campus retained its youthful spirit and upbeat sound. Their music is bright, and their lyrics are riddled with alliteration, colors and natural imagery. Trumpeter DeCarlo Jackson also brought a cozy jazziness to the music.

Unlike a traditional concert, where you would have to fight for a good sightline in a sea of fans, Zoom allowed us to get a private glimpse into their studio. They were a fun bunch, often cracking

COURTESY PHOTO

OPINION

Notes from the Desk: More than unwelcome in America

By BOCHU DING
Editor in Chief

"We don't have a place here."

I looked up — mid-bite into my noodles — at my mom, whose matter-of-fact tone surprised me. She paused.

"I don't feel safe here," she continued, more wistfully. "And it frightens me when you're away."

It broke my heart then. But this past week, it's broken my heart a lot more.

I grew up on Lincoln and 19th in the Sunset District of San Francisco, where wisps of morning fog would tumble into the city at first light. The district is bounded by Golden Gate Park on one side and Ocean Beach on another. It is home to San Tung's famous fried chicken wings, legions of boba shops and a good portion of San Francisco's Asian-American community.

It's where the salon of *a'yi* stood — where I sat sobbing after I had lost my parents in the crowd as she ran out to find them; it's where *bobo* worked as a waiter — at a restaurant where I'd get fortune cookies for tagging along during deliveries; it's where *shushu* lived, in a house where we'd gather on Halloween each year before driving to affluent neighborhoods for trick-or-treating.

Those memories flooded into my mind on Wednesday when I learned of the unconscionable murders that occurred in Atlanta. As more information about the victims rolled in, I could not shake the feeling that they could have easily been someone I knew. I pictured the heinous acts of hate befalling the people who guided me into adulthood — those who had cut my hair, who let me feed the fish in their restaurants, and whose hand-me-downs I wore to school.

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Eight lives taken — six of whom were women of Asian descent.

Those women were not just a set of nameless, faceless casualties. They were daughters and mothers, mentors and caretakers, leaders and advocates, lovers and dreamers. They had favorite dishes and small things that delighted them, songs and movies that made them laugh and cry, people they loved and people who loved them. They held onto their dreams and aspirations, celebrated their accomplishments and new beginnings, and suffered loss and pain.

They deserved to feel safe — to be safe. And they deserved to know that they had as much of a right as anyone else to call this country their home.

But it's naive to pretend that the U.S. has ever been a welcoming — or even accepting — place for those of Asian descent. Anti-Asian discrimination and violence are deeply interwoven into the fabric of U.S. history — from immigration legislation that excluded those of Asian descent to the Chinese Massacre of 1871 to Japanese internment during World War II to the Watsonvillle Anti-Filipino riots to the recent rise of anti-Asian hate crimes amid the pandemic. And it won't stop here, either.

This hate and otherization isn't new. Nor is it relegated to the annals of history or an abstract idea to be dissected in liberal arts classrooms.

Two summers ago, I was riding

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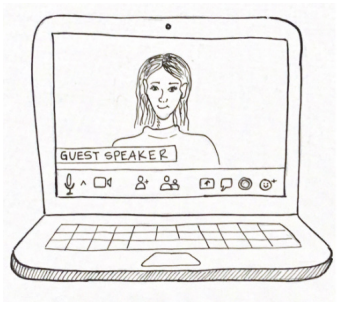
NEWS

Silicon lining: Pandemic-era digital tools open new learning opportunities
By CAT MCLAUGHLIN



LOCAL

Porter Hospital launches DEI program to address healthcare inequalities
By MAGGIE REYNOLDS

Catholic worshipers turn to St. Mary's after closure of Shoreham church
By MAYA HEIKKINEN

ARTS & CULTURE

Home sweet home: Dorm decor takes on new importance
By ELIZA KING FREEDMAN

RADIO ROUNDUP

WRMC Radio Roundup: spring synths and midnight soundtracks
By WRMC EXEC BOARD

Reel Critic: 'Malcolm & Marie'
By FLORENCE WU

OPINION

'Taxation without representation': The fight for statehood and an end to the senate filibuster
By BRUNO COELHO

When it comes to grief, Middlebury is no bubble
By SOPHIE CLARK

SPORTS

Siefer's Scoop Episode 14: Lucy Ambach '23, women's volleyball
By BLAISE SIEFER

March Madness brackets offer students a rare opportunity to safely bond
By JOSH ROSENSTEIN

Recruiting during a pandemic: A new challenge for Middebury Athletics
By SAM LIPIN

Simi Hamilton '09, three-time U.S. Olympian, retires from competitive skiing
By ABBY SCHNEIDERHAN